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# Syria Is Said to Abandon Bid To Gain Americans' Release

By **IHSAN A. HIJAZI**

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BEIRUT, Lebanon, Oct. 20 — Lebanese political leaders said today that Syria had abandoned its efforts to gain the release of Americans kidnapped in Lebanon in the last year and a half.

The political leaders said Syria had been angered by the American interception of an Egyptian airliner carrying the hijackers of the cruise ship Achille Lauro. The four hijackers were arrested after the plane was forced to land in Sicily.

The Lebanese political leaders quoted unidentified Syrian officials as saying that after the interception of the Egyptian plane, no one would ever trust the Americans again.

The political leaders were in Damascus for talks on ending Lebanon's decade-old civil war.

The shadowy organization Islamic Holy War, believed to consist of Shiite Moslem fundamentalists supporting Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran, is believed to have kidnapped all or most of the six missing Americans.

The group said earlier this month that it had "executed" one hostage, William Buckley, who until his kidnapping 18 months ago was the political officer at the United States Embassy.

## Offer to Turn Over Body

A week later, the organization delivered a photograph of a body to local newspapers and said it was Mr. Buckley's. In an accompanying statement, it offered to turn the body over to the United Nations Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, if Israel freed 100 Palestinian prisoners.

Islamic Holy War said it had slain Mr. Buckley in retaliation for the Israeli air strike on the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunisia on Oct. 1.

Aside from Mr. Buckley, the missing Americans are Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University of Beirut; Thomas M. Sutherland, the university's dean of agriculture; David

Jacobsen, the director of the university hospital; Terry A. Anderson, Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, and the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Roman Catholic priest.

Syria's President, Hafez al-Assad, has been personally involved in past efforts to free kidnapped Americans, but only one was released. That hostage, the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister, was freed last month.

In a message carried by Mr. Weir, the kidnappers said they would be ready to let all the American hostages go if Kuwait freed 17 people convicted for bomb attacks on the United States and French Embassies and other installations in December 1983.

## Russian Is Reported Slain

Meanwhile, an anonymous caller, purporting to speak for the kidnappers of Soviet Embassy officials here, telephoned a Christian radio station and said a second hostage had been slain.

The station, the Voice of Lebanon, quoted him as saying that the police had been notified and had been asked to retrieve the Russian's body.

The same man, who claimed to represent a group called the Islamic Liberation Organization, telephoned three hours earlier to say that one of the captives would be killed and his body dumped in Beirut's southern suburbs, the station said.

The police said they knew nothing about the matter.